

COLLOQUY

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN has annotated a new book *The Pamphlets of Lewis Carroll, Games, Puzzles, and Related Pieces*. University of Virginia Press, 2015. 394 pages. ISBN 978-0-930326-02-9. Chris cites *Word Ways* contributions very often in this highly interesting book. Contact Emily K. Grandstaff 434-982-2932/ egrandstaff@virginia.edu.

ROSS ECKLER was delighted to see the Keith-Miller collaboration and fascinated by the Wikipedia Gadsby fracas!

Here's the U follow up to the 3-L Lama (suum is in Web2):

A one-U sum adds up, I've found
A two-U suum, humming sound
But I bet you a witch's broom you never saw a three-U suuum

EDWARD WOLPOW commented regarding the May 2015 issue:

Contronyms (p. 111-112) from Webster's Third New International Dictionary:

UPWARDS OF (also UPWARD OF) 1. more than: in excess of. 2. a little bit less than: not quite.

An Alphabet of three-L Lamas (Ross Eckler, pp. 145-146) here's a stretch to find examples for the remaining letters:

A one-H heathen does not pray,
A two-H heath hen flies away,
But I'll bet my cousin Ethan you never saw a three-H heathhhen.

A one-J haj is a trip of fame,
A two-J hajj is much the same,
But I'll bet a merit badge you never saw a three-J hajjj.

The one-K Aka are pygmies, small,
The two-K Akka in Assam, all,
But I'll bet a blue alpaca you never saw a three-K akkka.

A one-Q HAQ: a Health Assessment Questionnaire, A two-Q haqq is truth in Islam, truth so fair,
But I'll bet a cinder block you never saw a three-Q haqqq.

A one-U sum of two numbers is known,
A two-U "suum cuique": to each his own, But I'll bet a keg of rum you never saw a three-U suuum.

You one-W deworm when infested
By two-W dewworms, much detested,
But I'll bet a sore with screwworm you never saw a three-W dewworm.

A one-Y ayah is a verse of the Koran, renowned, A two-Y Ayyah in 1 Chronicles 7:28 is found,
But I'll bet a Black Maria you never saw a three-Y ayyah.

MIKE KEITH observed:

I enjoyed Anil's "Equation Words" in the current issue.

I took up the implicit challenge to find a solution for the word MULTIPLY and found quite a few that use just the four basic operations. Here are two of the better/simpler ones:

MULTIPLY: $13 = (21 \times 12) + 20 + ((9 - 16) \times (12 + 25))$

MULTIPLY: $(13 \times 21) + 12 - (20 \times (9 + 16 - 12)) = 25$

Here are solutions to WORDWAYS and PAINSTAKING that do not require exponents:

WORDWAYS: $-23 + 15 - 18 - 4 + 23 + 1 + 25 = 19$

PAINSTAKING: $(16 * (1 - 9 - 14 + 19)) + 20 + 1 + 11 + 9 + 14 = 7$

It seems worth noting that almost all words that possess a valid equation also allow an equation in which the equals sign appears all the way to the right (just before the last letter), as in the last three solutions given above. In fact, every word given in Anil's quiz has a solution in that form. These can often be obtained by taking his solutions and moving terms from the right side to the left side of the equals sign, with corresponding adjustments to the arithmetic operations, until only the last letter remains on the right side.

One last note: in the solution given for QUARREL, "(21x9)" should read "(21x1)".

ANDY LIU sent a short piece inspired by the item on page 135 in the May 2015 issue:

LETTER PERFECT

When asked how his English learning is coming along, a mainland Chinese friend of mine said, "After one year, I have learned all of it."

"That is impossible," said I. "I can't say that even after all these years."

"How hard can it be? There are only twenty-six, aren't there?"

He then showed me a short play he had written.

HAM AND EGGS
(Scene: A restaurant)

Customer: LO!
Waiter: LO!
Customer: FUNEM?
Waiter: S, IFM.
Customer: FUNEX?
Waiter: S, IFX.
Customer: ILFMNX.
Waiter: NQ!

I think some variation of it can be traced back to "The Two Ronnies" or beyond.

JEFF GRANT writes:

I enjoyed Darryl's 'New Typewriter Words' in the latest Word Ways. It got me wondering about the possibility of a PROTOTYPEWRITER, which would be a 15-letter word using only the top row of keys on a typewriter. Sure enough, on googling the term, I found a number of uses demonstrating two different meanings.

1. See quote below

"Let's use the term **prototypewriter** to describe a machine that can perform all the low level functions of a typewriter."

[*The UNIX Operating System*, K.C.Wiley, 1983, p8]

2. An early typewriter

"Though the patent for the first **prototypewriter** was issued in England in 1714, the first commercial machine in the United States was marketed by Remington in 1874." [Granta Magazine online, 'The Ribbon of Valour', Hal Crowther, 10 Aug 2010]

I have discussed this with Darryl. He thinks it's a great find, but if you google the word you will see that I am not the first person to think of the possibility of this long 'typewriter word'. Still, it will be good to have it officially recorded.

All the best with 'Word Ways'. Still my favourite read!